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In a society where mutants and former mutants alike feel threatened by the world around them, they turn to their first, best line of defense whenever trouble arises: X-Factor, the private detective agency founded by Madrox, the Multiple Man.

X-FACTOR

IN THE FUTURE: A not-yet-evil Trevor Fitzroy catapulted three Omeganoid sentinels into the past, thus thwarting an assault on the decrepit Victor Von Doom. Madrox, for safekeeping, decided to bring Von Doom with him back to Atlantic City in hopes of using Von Doom's time travel knowledge to his advantage.

IN THE PRESENT: Rictor, Shatterstar and Guido were requested to leave by the Reverend John Maddox, and departed New England, but are still a drive of many hours away from Detroit. Which is a shame, because back in Motor City, Siryn and a Cortex-possessed Monet suddenly found themselves battling the sentinels, courtesy of Fitzroy. Meanwhile Longshot fought, and was taken down by, Cortex, but while doing so managed to break Cortex's hold on Monet, leaving Monet clear-headed and also nude (and thus causing a mild surge in sales). Monet was stunned to discover that Cortex was actually one of Madrox's dupes, thus answering one of the more frequently asked reader questions, but raising a brand new set of questions.

Meanwhile, Peter David is lobbying for Citifield to be torn down and Shea Stadium to be rebuilt, so the memory of the 2009 Mets can be utterly expunged.

PETER DAVID **Writer**	VALENTINE DE LANDRO **Penciler**	PAT DAVIDSON **Inker**
JEROMY COX **Colorist**	DAVID YARDIN WITH NATHAN FAIRBAIRN **Cover**	VC's CORY PETIT **Letterer**
JODY LEHEUP **Editor**	JOE QUESADA **Editor In Chief**	DAN BUCKLEY **Publisher**	ALAN FINE **Exec. Producer**

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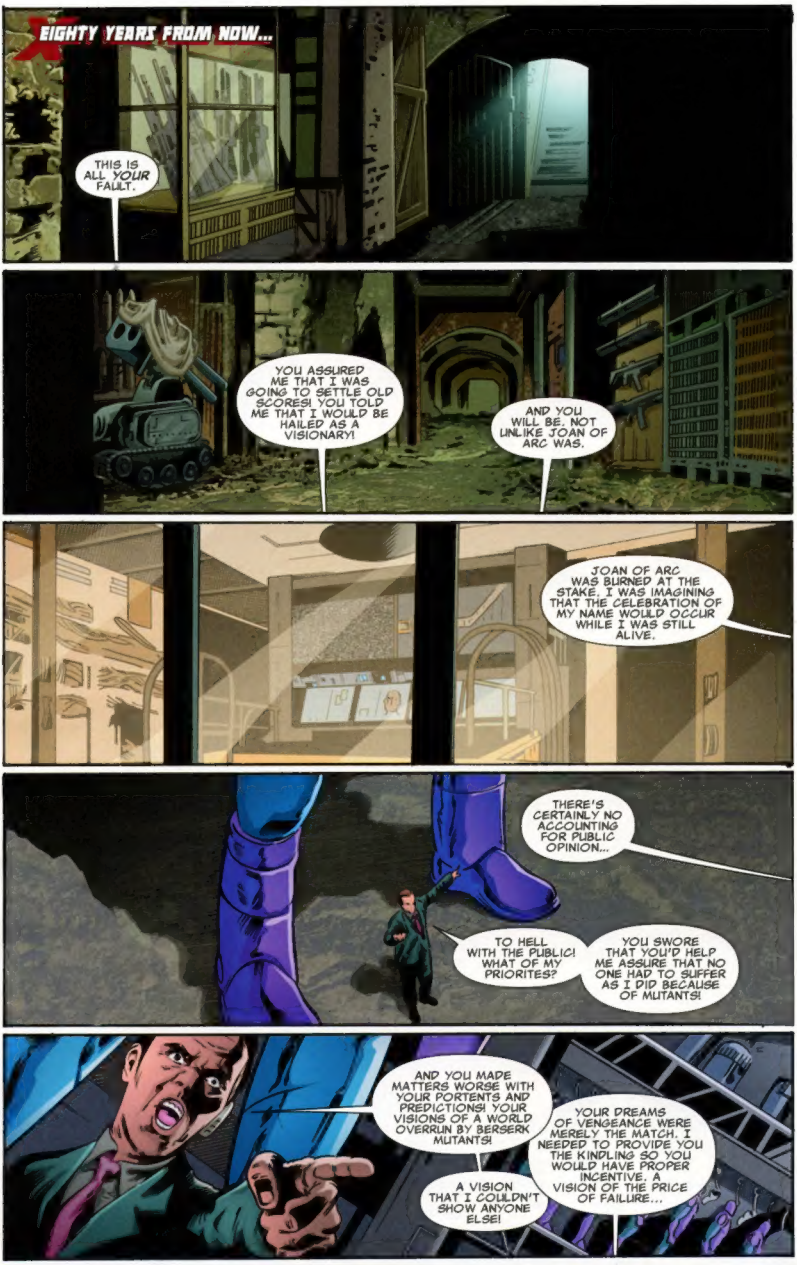
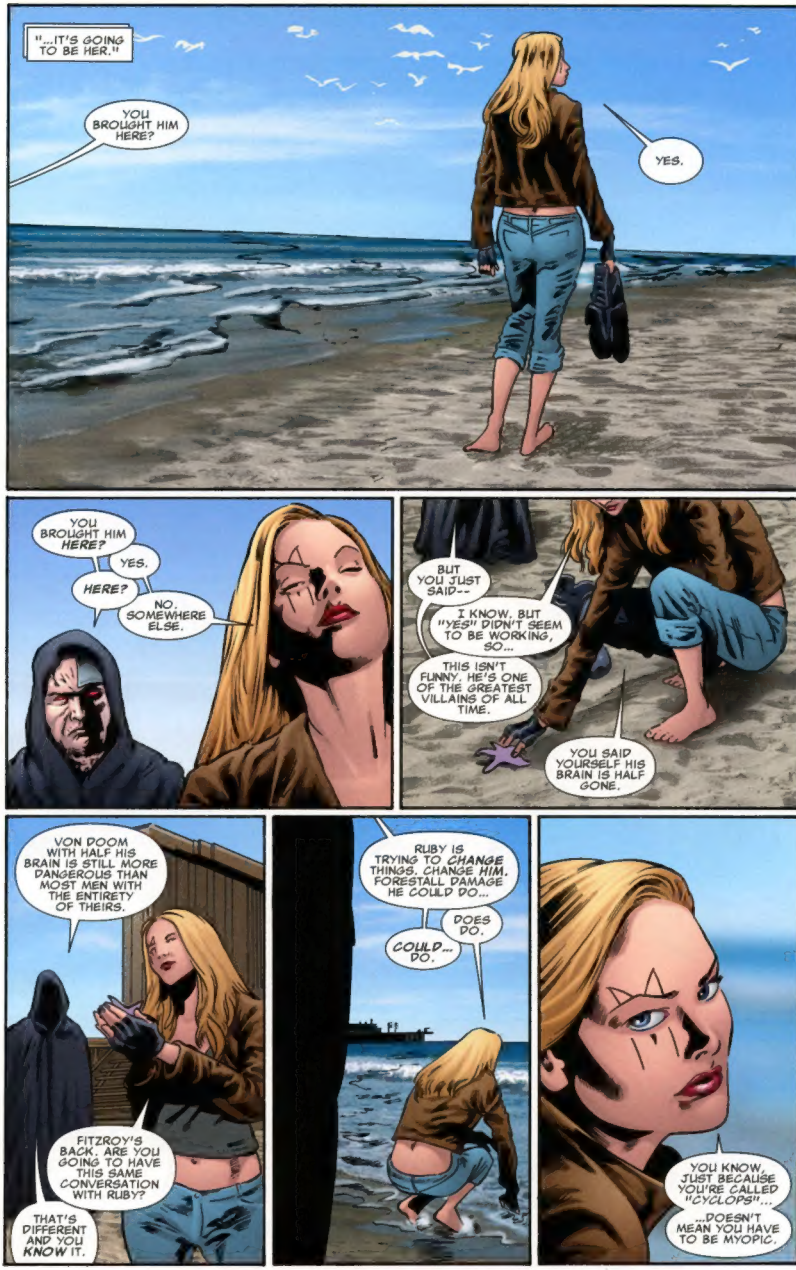

EIGHTY YEARS FROM NOW...
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT.
YOU ASSURED ME THAT I WAS GOING TO SETTLE OLD SCORES! YOU TOLD ME THAT I WOULD BE HAILED AS A VISIONARY!
AND YOU WILL BE. NOT UNLIKE JOAN OF ARC WAS.
JOAN OF ARC WAS BURNED AT THE STAKE. I WAS IMAGINING THAT THE CELEBRATION OF MY NAME WOULD OCCUR WHILE I WAS STILL ALIVE.
THERE'S CERTAINLY NO ACCOUNTING FOR PUBLIC OPINION...
TO HELL WITH THE PUBLIC! WHAT OF MY PRIORITES?
YOU SWORE THAT YOU'D HELP ME ASSURE THAT NO ONE HAD TO SUFFER AS I DID BECAUSE OF MUTANTS!
AND YOU MADE MATTERS WORSE WITH YOUR PORTENTS AND PREDICTIONS! YOUR VISIONS OF A WORLD OVERRUN BY BERSERK MUTANTS!
YOUR DREAMS OF VENGEANCE WERE MERELY THE MATCH. I NEEDED TO PROVIDE YOU THE KINDLING SO YOU WOULD HAVE PROPER INCENTIVE. A VISION OF THE PRICE OF FAILURE...
A VISION THAT I COULDN'T SHOW ANYONE ELSE!

THAT'S NEVER HOW IT WORKED, DOCTOR. MEN OF VISION HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO PUT PHYSICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF WHAT THEY SEE IN FRONT OF OTHERS AND SAY, "SEE, HERE? THIS IS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT."
MEN OF VISION PERSUADE OTHERS THROUGH THE POWER OF THEIR IDEAS.
GANDHI CONVINCED OTHERS THROUGH HIS ACTIONS AND HIS WORDS. HE DIDN'T DISPLAY PHOTOGRAPHS AND SAY, "HERE IS WHAT A WORLD FILLED WITH PEACE WILL LOOK LIKE."
GANDHI WAS ASSASSINATED, WAS HE NOT?
THAT'S NOT THE POINT...
JOAN OF ARC, MARTYRED. GANDHI, MARTYRED. I'M NOTICING A RECURRING THEME HERE, TRYP. AND I'M NOT *ENAMORED* OF IT.
IF THE MAID OF ORLEANS COULD HAVE PRODUCED A GENUINE SAINT TO VOUCH FOR HER, OR IF GANDHI *DID* HAVE PICTURES, THINGS MIGHT HAVE TURNED OUT BETTER FOR THEM, IS ALL I'M SAYING.
AS IT IS, I'M *LESS* THAN SANGUINE WITH THE DIRECTION THIS CONVERSATION HAS TAKEN.

YOU NEED TO REMAIN CALM.
THIS BUSINESS WITH THE PRESIDENT IS SIMPLY A SETBACK. ONE THAT YOU KNEW WAS POSSIBLE.
POSSIBLE. YES. LIKELY. NO.
IT'S WHY THERE ARE SEVERAL PLANS IN PLAY. POSITIONING MUTANTS TO BE REMOVED FROM OUR WORLD ONCE AND FOR ALL...
...WHILE RETROACTIVELY DISPOSING OF VARIOUS KEY MUTANTS THROUGH CHRONAL REVERSION.
IT'S ALL COMING TOGETHER...
SO YOU SAY.
YES. SO I SAY.
AND I HAVE LIVED FAR LONGER THAN YOU, AND KNOW FAR MORE.
BUT THE SUMMERS REBELLION--
SUMMERS IS NOT THE PROBLEM.
THEN WHAT IS? MADROX?
NO.
LAYLA MILLER.
IF ANYONE SCREWS THIS UP FOR US...


"...IT'S GOING TO BE HER."
YOU BROUGHT HIM HERE?
YES.
YOU BROUGHT HIM HERE?
YES.
HERE?
NO. SOMEWHERE ELSE.
BUT YOU JUST SAID--
I KNOW. BUT "YES" DIDN'T SEEM TO BE WORKING, SO...
THIS ISN'T FUNNY. HE'S ONE OF THE GREATEST VILLAINS OF ALL TIME.
YOU SAID YOURSELF HIS BRAIN IS HALF GONE.
VON DOOM WITH HALF HIS BRAIN IS STILL MORE DANGEROUS THAN MOST MEN WITH THE ENTIRETY OF THEIRS.
FITZROY'S BACK. ARE YOU GOING TO HAVE THIS SAME CONVERSATION WITH RUBY?
THAT'S DIFFERENT AND YOU KNOW IT.
RUBY IS TRYING TO CHANGE THINGS. CHANGE HIM. FORESTALL DAMAGE HE COULD DO...
DOES DO.
COULD... DO.
YOU KNOW, JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE CALLED "CYCLOPS"...
...DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO BE MYOPIC.

THAT'S REALLY HIM?
WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM.
I WAS EXPECTING SOMEONE... I DON'T KNOW...
DOOMIER?
YEAH. SOMETHING MORE IMPRESSIVE, I SUPPOSE.
ALL RIGHT, VON DOOM, YOU NEED TO KNOW THAT I DON'T APPROVE OF YOUR BEING HERE.
YOU WERE A TYRANT. A DICTATOR. A HEARTLESS MENACE WHO ENJOYED THE PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.
UH, SCOTT... YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHILL JUST A--
BUT MADROX HERE SEEMS TO THINK YOU CAN BE OF SOME USE.
SO I'LL TOLERATE YOUR PRESENCE FOR THE TIME BEING.
SCOTT, NO KIDDING, JUST--
QUIET, MADROX. AS FOR YOU, VON DOOM:
STAY OUT OF MY WAY.
AS YOU WISH.

FWZAAAK
SO...?
HOW'D IT GO?

IS HE IN MY WAY?
NO.
AND I AM, THEREFORE, NOT IN HIS.
NO.
THEN ALL IS WELL.
WINSTON! TO MY CHAMBERS.
YES, MY LORD.
HUNH.
OKAY. THAT WAS IMPRESSIVE.
MADROOOX...
HEY, I TRIED TO WARN YOU. WHAT PART OF "CHILL OUT" WASN'T CLEAR?
WHAT PART OF "HE'S EVIL" DID YOU NOT UNDERSTAND?
WHAT PART OF--?
SCREW IT. YOU PUT ME IN CHARGE OF YOUR DISAPPEARING PEOPLE. I'LL HANDLE THE INVESTIGATION THE WAY I SEE FIT.
THERE ARE TIMES I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
YEAH, ME TOO.

NOW...
I HATE TO ADMIT IT. BUT IT WAS WORTH IT FOR THIS.
THE PAIN OF BEING ABANDONED IN THE FUTURE, FORGOTTEN AND NEGLECTED...
THE SOUL-RIPPING TORMENT OF BEING CATAPULTED ACROSS REALITIES BY TRYP...
AND OOOOH, WHAT FALCONE DID TO ME UNDER TRYP'S GUIDANCE...
BUT IT'S ALL WORTH IT JUST TO SEE THE LOOKS ON TERRY AND MONET'S FACES.
ALWAYS SO SMUG. SO ARROGANT. SO SURE OF THEMSELVES AND CONFIDENT IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND SUPERIORITY.
THEY KNEW NOTHING. THEY KNOW NOTHING.
AND I KNOW EVERYTHING.
the cortex equation
FIRST THINGS FIRST...
I'M DOING YOU A FAVOR, MONET. YOU'RE JUST EMBARRASSING YOURSELF.

I was better off when my mother was trying to kil me...
HOLY--!
MONET!
MS. ST. CROIX, ARE...ARE YOU OKAY?

CLOSE? YOU WANT ME TO GET CLOSER TO--?
CLOTHES, YOU IDIOT!
FIND MY CLOTHES...AND THEN...
...GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE

JAMIE? IS THAT...?
NO, IT CAN'T...
IT'S...YOU'RE A DUPE, AREN'T YOU. ONE OF JAMIE'S DUPES GONE ROGUE OR SOMETHING.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
YES. WHAT'S REALLY GOING TO HAPPEN NOW IS THAT I AM GOING TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED TO ME.
HOW I GOT THIS WAY. WHO SENT ME. MY WHOLE MISSION.
OR I COULD DO SOMETHING REALLY EXCITING, TERRY.
I COULD TELL YOU EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS TO YOU.
WHETHER THE MUTANT RACE IS RESTORED. WHO YOU MARRY. HOW YOU DIE.
HOW YOU BRING DEAR OLD DA BACK FROM THE DEAD.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TELL YOU THAT?
WELL? WOULD YOU?

NO.
EEEEEEEEEEEE

FEISTY. SHE IS FEISTY.
SHE'S PRACTICALLY DRIPPING WITH FEIST.
EEEEEEEEEEEEE
I SWORE THAT IF I SAW YOU AGAIN, I'D BREAK YOUR NECK.
I'VE HAD A MONTH TO D'WELL ON MUH STATE OF MIND WHEN I SAID THAT. A MONTH TO REGRET IT OR NOT REGRET IT OR WHICHEVER WAY.
THANKEE. THANKEE FOR COMING BACK AS AN EVIL VERSION SO I WOULD'NA HAFTA DOUBT MUHSELF NO MORE.
WHY, TERRY. I DO BELIEVE YOU'VE GOTTEN YOUR IRISH UP.
TELL ME TRULY, MY DEAR: YOU SAW WHAT I DID TO MONET. YOU'RE NOT INVULNERABLE. I COULD KILL YOU WHERE YOU STAND.
IS THAT WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE FOR ME TO DO? DO YOU HAVE A WEE DEATH WISH?

A-YUH? TRY IT! GO ON--!
GO ON, A CHOLLACH! TRY!
YOU'RE SO CUTE WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY. I JUST CAN'T DO IT.
EEEEEEEE

WHERE THE HELL DID HE--?
LINNHHHH!!!!
HOW ABOUT THAT? TURNS OUT I *COULD* DO IT, AFTER ALL.
NOW THEN. BACK TO BUSINESS.
I'LL NEED TO FIND A

YOU TOOK OVER MY MIND!
NO ONE TAKES OVER MY MIND!
NEVER AGAIN! NEVER--
--EVER--
--AGAIN!!!!

UNHHH...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THAT WAS JUST...
...WEIRD
WHAT WAS?
YOU KNOW THE OLD SAYING ABOUT SOMEONE STEPPING ON YOUR GRAVE?
YES.
WELL, I FEEL LIKE RIVERDANCE JUST STAMPEDED OVER MINE.
COME ON. LET'S GO.
THAT DEVICE YOU USED ON MY FATHER...
YOU DIDN'T HAVE IT ON YOU WHEN WE FIRST SAW YOU.
NO. I CONSTRUCTED IT OUT OF SPARE PARTS IN THE BACK OF THE TRUCK.
BUT... HOW? WHY?
HOW? DESPITE APPEARANCES, I HAVE MY MOMENTS OF...
...LUCIDITY.
AS FOR WHY...
I WAS BORED

WELL, IF THAT'S THE CASE...
...THEN THIS SHOULD KEEP YOU ENTERTAINED
ADEQUATE.
A POOR, PITIFUL THING COMPARED TO THE MAJESTIC LABORATORIES SPAWNED BY THE GENIUS OF VON DOOM...
...BUT ADEQUATE.
THERE IS MUCH THAT COULD BE DONE WITH IT.
I WAS THINKING OF ONE THING IN PARTICULAR.
AND THAT WOULD BE...?
YOU CREATED THE TECHNOLOGY THAT MADE THE "DOOMLOCK" POSSIBLE?
I DID
I THINK IT'S OUT THERE SOMEWHERE IN THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM
AND--?
CAN YOU BRING IT BACK HERE?
EASILY

I'M GOING TO KILL HIM...I'M GOING TO KILL HIM...I'M GOING TO KILL HIM...
MY GOD! YOU KILLED HIM! HOW COULD YOU?
HE WAS A DUPE.
STILL--!
HE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE ANY BLOOD IN HIS BODY. HE WAS JUST...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS.
IT'S RUDE TO TALK ABOUT SOMEONE AS IF THEY'RE NOT HERE.
AND BY THE WAY, MONET...
YOU LEFT YOUR CLIENT UNPROTECTED.
THAT WAS A MISTAKE.

HUNF... HUNF... HUN--
KERNS
AAAAHH!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
DARWIN! OH, THANK GOD!
WHAT HAPPENED?
WELL...I GOT REALLY DRUNK...AND THEN THINGS STARTED EXPLODING. THE REST IS KIND OF A BLUR
NOW WHAT--?!
GET BEHIND ME!
I HAD NO DESIRE TO DO THIS. TAKING A DIRECT HAND IS PUSHING THE LIMITS OF CHRONAL REVERSION. IT RISKS TEARING THE FABRIC OF REALITY, POSSIBLY EVEN CAUSING BLEED-THROUGH.
BUT I'VE EXPENDED ENTIRELY TOO MUCH EFFORT ON THIS ONE FEMALE. I COULD SIMPLY HAVE GONE AND KILLED HECATE MYSELF IN THE TIME THEY HAD TAKEN.
ENOUGH.
...ENOUGH.

EH?
SHUK!!
HOW IN THE--?
State
ALL RIGHT, THIS JUST MAKES NO SENSE AT ALL! WHERE THE HELL DID YOU THREE COME FROM?
FUNNY STORY, ACTUALLY, HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED...

X-PERT WITNESSES

Hello, loyal readers!

First off this month, I want to thank everyone that wrote in for all your wonderful letters. Whether you like what we're doing or you don't the fact that you took the time to write in means a lot to us over here at the 'Factor fort. It means you're passionate about comics and that's a good thing in our books! So keep it up! Everyone's voice is valuable to us.

Alright, enough with the intro already! Letters page! Go!

Hey X-Factor folks,

I don't quite know where to start without sounding like a cliché, but I've never written a letter to a comic book in my 25 plus years of collecting. Not counting an attempt to get something free from a "Star Trek: Deep Space 9" series once. I have been a fan of Peter David's writing since probably well before I read "Imzadi"; if you don't know what I'm talking about: shame on you! Go pick it up at your local library right now! I want to thank you, Mr. David, for sharing the personal family bits and humor; you become more than some distant writer, but a personable guy next door, so kudos to you! I can still remember when I first picked up X-Factor back in the day and became sucked into its awesome universe. I have every issue from when Forge was on the cover of #121 to the end of that run. I really enjoy what you have done with the Multiple Man character, maturing him in the fashion that you have — flawed yet real! In my opinion, he's one of the coolest, most underused and misunderstood characters in the X-verse. I am also very glad that you have yet to spoil this book with endless crossovers with other titles requiring me to buy more books, including one-shots at $6. This is another reason X-Factor is my favorite X-book and one of my favorite comics altogether. Other reasons include the aforementioned Mr. David and Madrox, but it boils down to great stories and good art. Although I almost dropped the book when the art became horrid and inconsistent from panel to panel — near Darwin's intro — but you guys rectified that situation! Now you guys are back in full swing and man does it feel great, with a good mix of seriousness and humor! Darwin is a cool character also, as is Strong Guy, Siryn, Layla and the rest of the supporting cast, almost like the best of some other former titles!

There are many books that slam organized religion, make them be the bad guys, or paint them as whackos, but with the Reverend John Maddox you treated it with respect. I know there are many religions out there, but I get bothered when Christianity is twisted or brushed off and ignored. There are some statistics that point to around 90% of Americans believing in God; it would be nice to see a good Christian character with his faith being treated respectfully as an integral part of his life. I've been disappointed with the change in Rahne's (a character I like) persona from God-fearing to what she is now. Yes people do grow and change, but why do they have to abandon their faith? (I'd like to mention that I really like the Muslim character, Dust/Sooraya and wish she would get used more often!) Speaking of percentages, I've heard that somewhere around 10% of the population is homosexual (I'm no expert though). I agree that the one recent letter was childish in how it made one point, but I'd like to bring out another: about there being a book without gays or lesbians in it. I know there are many that don't have such a character, but there are quite a few that do (45+ entries on an encyclopedia website) like: Runaways, Northstar, Anole, Karma, and Ultimate Colossus. It would be nice to have comics that don't make sexuality in general an issue, or when it does to not let it feel forced or out of place. I like Rictor as a character, as I do with Karma and others, but would be concerned about what comes next for him and the team. I'll stick around to find out. Just so I'm clear, I don't necessarily like that Madrox got involved with two of his teammates either! No book will ever be perfect, but must we always drop family friendliness for shock value or realism? I sometimes wonder why the numbers/ percentages (90% God believers, 10% left-handed, 60% Hispanic, etc.) in reality can't be mirrored in fantasy? Though I still admit to being confused by Marvel math after the M-Day/196 event — do the reverse math for the percentages of mutants given and it doesn't add up. Just, please, tread carefully where you go next. With that being said, I want to reiterate that I do enjoy your book, Mr. David's writing, and the art immensely — keep up the good work! While I'd love a reply, I know you guys are busy keeping your book coming out on time (another benefit). Well, until Madrox spawns a female dupe (that even possible?) and marries her, make mine X-Factor!

Sincerely,
Andrew M. Grant

First of all, Andrew, thank you for your thoughtful letter and your support for the book. You address a lot of points and I'm not sure I can do justice to all of them. First, thanks for the shout out to the way I've been handling John Maddox. John's a particular favorite of mine and I enjoy revisiting him and the way he views the world from time to time. Addressing religious themes in a comic is like walking a Teflon tightrope with a razor blade safety net, and yet Madrox's reverend dupe has received pretty much unanimous acclaim. Often in our increasingly fragmented society, simple quiet faith seems to get drowned out by those who want to use their views as a club on those who disagree — or are different. So it's nice to portray religion and people of faith as simple, good, decent folks with a live-and-let-live attitude, particularly since I truly think that's an accurate representation of the vast majority of the faithful. That said, I'm sure you'll also find quite a few individuals who are religious and yet, because of their sexual orientation, they face hostility from their respective churches. Imagine how hurtful that must be. It's my desire — not to mention, I think, my obligation — to explore all sides of various topics, which is why sometimes you'll be comfortable with the subject matter and sometimes less so. X-Factor is indeed rated for an older audience, but I like to think the book isn't family unfriendly. The fact is that Marvel Comics have been exploring romance and sexuality ever since Reed and Namor fought over Sue while Mary Jane informed Peter Parker that he'd just hit the jackpot. Have such portrayals become more explicit? Sure. But times change, and storytelling is going to change with it. What worked for the 1960s may well seem quaint or even-out-of-touch in 2009, and if there's one thing Marvel wants to remain, it's cutting edge! We think that's what people have come to expect from us, and we take that expectation seriously around here.

Mr David,

Sir, I'd like to shake your hand! Love the book, LOVE THE BOOK! I get giddy when I see it on the "New This Week" shelf. I speak the truth, this book can very well move me to tears... Anyway, a question: When you write Jamie and Layla, where do you draw from? What is the source that you tap from that makes the two of them so electric together? It blows my mind on how good they are together. Oh, one more: Did Bendis solely create her for House of M, or were you a part of that creation process? Cuz, I'm kinda surprised with a character like her, he didn't put her in the Avengers.

Thanks,
Will

Well, Will, they always say "Write what you know." Granted, I've never been involved with a young woman who, to my perception, went from 15 to 21 practically overnight. But in my time I've had a few romances, two marriages (not simultaneously, I should emphasize), not to mention four daughters whose ups and downs in the romance department I've been a witness to. So I have a wealth of experience to draw on in that area. As for Layla, Brian was the one who created her for House of M. What it came down to was that then-editor Andy Schmidt suggested that Layla would be a good fit for X-Factor post-House of M. I chatted with Brian about it, and the Bendis was extremely generous in bouncing ideas back and forth about where she had come from and in what directions I should take her in X-Factor. As for why not put her in Avengers... SHHH!!! Don't give anyone ideas!

Dear Mr. David,

I heartily enjoy much of your current and past work in X-Factor, but I have to admit that your first attempt at a letters page was somewhat disappointing. Now I concede that you might not have been the one to choose the letters that were answered, but it certainly seems that you only printed letters at the two extremes. Rather than responding to point-by-point criticism of your "wow" endings, you printed one overly hostile letter and one hyper-praising letter. Perhaps you failed to receive more intelligent discussions, but I was a bit disappointed that the letters seemed to slant towards your personal opinions (someone very happy, and an angry bigot). Casting the two sides of the argument like that is unfair. People who disliked the kiss are not necessarily anti-LBGT.

Keep up the good work and let Layla and Madrox be happy together.

Will
Murfreesboro, TN

Another letter from a Will. We should get a letter from Daniel Way just to balance it out. In any event, Will, just as you play the hand that you're dealt, we print the letters we're dealt. Honestly, I've noticed that "extremes" (perhaps we should entitle the letters column "Going to X-Tremes") are typically the types of letters we receive. We tend to hear either from people who are wildly enthusiastic and love everything about the book ... or from people who are incredibly torqued and want to let us know how unhappy they are. It's not as if we tossed aside a slew of middle-of-the-road letters in favor of extreme points of view. The letters that we ran are accurately representative of what our fans have to say. I'm perfectly happy to see us run letters filled with nuance or thoughtful analysis of an issue's subtext. To that end, I can only say: Bring 'em on. To be specific, though, I will say that the letter we ran protesting the kiss was the only objecting letter we received (or at least the only one I saw.)

Looks like that's all the room we have for this month. Thanks again to everyone for writing in. See you next time...

- J

8/28/09

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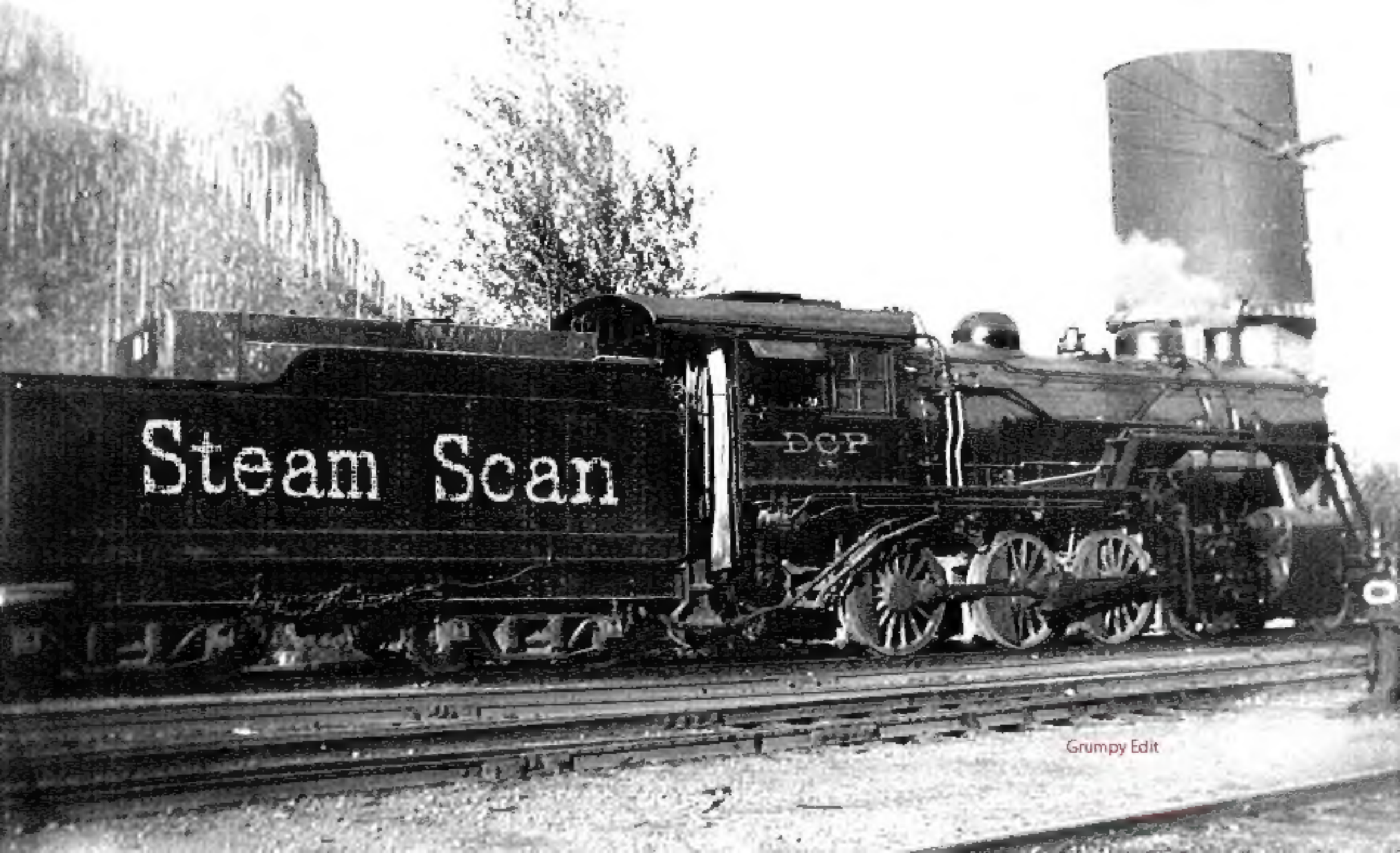
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